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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,352	09/14/2006	Takashi Inubushi	09867/0204680-US0	5558
7278	7590	08/12/2009	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C.			KOYAMA, KUMIKO C	
P.O. BOX 770			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Church Street Station				2887
New York, NY 10008-0770				
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			08/12/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/596,352	INUBUSHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	KUMIKO C. KOYAMA	2887

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 June 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment received on June 05, 2009 has been acknowledged.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 05, 2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohtsuki et al (US 4,931,622) in view of Bricaud et al (US 6,241,545).

Re claims 1 and 9: In Fig.3a, Ohtsuki shows a card holder 15 which is a card support unit including a card support surface 15 for sliding the card while supporting the card from one surface side. Ohtsuki also shows an abutting portion 57 which is a card end unit that includes a card end surface provided to protrude from the card support surface. Ohtsuki also shows a

plurality of contact terminals 26 which are input and output executing units positioned to face the information recording unit of the card when the card is slid on the card support surface as shown in Fig. 3a while abutting the card against the card end surface (col 4, lines 13-16). Ohtsuki discloses that the contacts of the circuit board attached to the card latch extend beyond the surface of the card holder so as to be connected to contacts of the electronic card to obtain a condition ready for communication (col 1, lines 55-60). Fig. 3a and 3b shows that the card is sliding into the device while abutting the card 16 against the card end surface 57. Fig. 4 shows that the card end surface 57 extends on both sides of the input and output executing unit 26 (the abutting portion 57 extends from left side of the device 26 to the right side of the device 26 with respect to Fig. 4), and allows the card sliding on the card support 15 to pass through the input and output executing unit 26.

Ohtsuki fails to teach wherein the card support surface extends in a horizontal direction and has an area enough to arrange a plurality of cards.

Bricaud shows in Fig. 21 and Fig. 23 arranging a plurality of contact assemblies 48 on a card support surface, and the contact assemblies extend in a horizontal direction. Fig. 25 shows that the area has enough to arrange a plurality of cards 34. Bricaud discloses a multi-card connector for an integration of several points of access in a same terminal for many applications (col 10, lines 8-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Bricaud to the teachings of Ohtsuki such that an additional card can also be accessed while the first card remains in the reader, such that different applications can be accessed from different cards for different purposes. Such

modification also provides the benefit of providing the capability of exchanging information amongst cards simultaneously.

Re claim 3: As shown in Fig. 3a, the abutting portion 57 (the card end unit) is positioned in a back portion of the card support surface (left side with respect to the figure). Referring to Fig. 4, when the user who uses the information device views the device from the right side of Fig. 4, the user will see that the card end unit 57 extends in a right-left direction.

Re claim 4: Fig. 3b shows that the card end surface 57 is at the edge of the card support surface 15. In Fig. 3a, Ohtsuki shows that the card end surface 57 exceeds an edge of the card support surface 15 and extends towards the rear surface side of the card support surface 15 in a portion of an intersection between the card support surface 15 and the card end surface 57.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohtsuki in view of Bricaud as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Webb (US 3,553,436). The teachings of Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud have been discussed above.

Ohtsuki teaches that the input and output executing unit (the contact terminals 26) is positioned to face the card information recording unit from a rear surface side (towards the left side of the surface 15 with respect to Fig. 3a) of the card support unit.

Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud fails to teach that the card support surface has a translucent material.

Webb discloses a transparent face plates on the card reader chambers to allow the outline and color of the cards to be seen while they are being inserted and read (col 10, lines 73-75).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Webb to the teachings of Ohtsuki as

modified by Bricaud such that the card can be seen during the read and write process to ensure that fraudulent actions are not taken within the card reader.

5. Claims 6, 7 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohtsuki in view of Bricaud as applied to claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Berbeco (US 4,596,668). The teachings of Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud have been discussed above.

Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud fails to teach that the support surface has a methacrylic resin having an antistatic property of 0.1 seconds or less in a testing method specified in JIS L-1094.

Berbeco discloses a film-forming synthetic polyampholyte polymeric composition as an emulsion which contains an effective antistatic amount of an antistatic agent, which composition, employed as a surface coating, provides electrostatic discharge protection particularly on floor surfaces and is characterized in that it will dissipate the static charges on personnel walking on said floor to zero in less than about 0.1 seconds and prevents the generation of static charge by personnel walking on the substrate protected with the composition of the invention (col 1, lines 50-61).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Berbeco to the teachings of Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud such that the card and the information stored on the card is not affected by static reactions, since static can cause the card to change or delete the data stored on the card.

6. Claims 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohtsuki in view of Bricaud and Berbeco as applied to claims 7 and 10 above, and further in view of

Ogawa et al (US 6,098,889). The teachings of Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud Berbeco have been discussed above.

Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud and Berbeco fails to teach that the surface hardness corresponds to a pencil hardness equal to or higher than five H, the pencil hardness being specified in JIS D-0202.

Ogawa discloses that the hardened surface layer preferably has hardness equivalent to a pencil hardness of 5H or more (col 4, lines 60-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Ogawa to the teachings of Ohtsuki as modified by Bricaud and Berbeco such that the surface has a sufficient hardness to be able to support the card in place, such that the electrical contacts can have a solid contact with the card contacts to ensure a proper reading and writing of the card.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KUMIKO C. KOYAMA whose telephone number is (571)272-2394. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Paik can be reached on 571-272-2404. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kumiko C. Koyama/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2887
August 11, 2009